

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**The Claims**

Claims 2-8 and 14-20 are in the application.

Claims 8, 17 and 18 are allowed.

Claims 2, 3 and 19 are amended.

No claims are canceled.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 103

Claims 2-7, 14-16 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/055027 A1 in view of Wright (US 1,277,676), Borgstrom et al. (US 6,533, 713 B1), Downey (US 3,231,182), or Downey (US 3,232,174).

Claim 2 is amended herein to recite the limitation:

“--- wherein substantially closed collection liquid ducts are defined circumferentially a tubular sleeve extending along said rotation axis, said adjacent collection impeller vanes, and said divider wall collection face.”

Support for amendment of claim 2 is found directly in the language of paragraph [0041] of the published application, and is also shown in originally filed Figure 1 among other places.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest a centrifugal separation rotor as recited in amended claim 2. Amended claim 2 is therefore believed to be patentable over WO 02/055027 A1 in view of Wright (US 1,277,676), Borgstrom et al. (US 6,533, 713 B1), Downey (US 3,231,182), or Downey (US 3,232,174).

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 17 and is in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

Claims 4-7 depend directly or indirectly from amended and allowable claim 3 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 14-16 depend directly or indirectly from amended and allowable claim 2 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite the limitations:

*“--- wherein said impeller vanes are secured circumferentially to a tubular sleeve aligned with said rotation axis,
wherein said impeller vanes taper to decreased width and distance from said tubular sleeve as a function of distance from one of said at least one end walls.”*

Support for amendment of claim 19 is found directly in the language of paragraph [0043] of the published application, also in originally filed Figure 1 among other places. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest a centrifugal separation rotor as recited in amended claim 19. Amended claim 19 is therefore believed to be patentable over WO 02/055027 A1 in view of Wright (US 1,277,676), Borgstrom et al. (US 6,533, 713 B1), Downey (US 3,231,182), or Downey (US 3,232,174).

Claim 20 depends from amended claim 19 and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

In view of the presented amendments of claims 2, 3 and 19, the applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-7, 14-16 and 19-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/055027 A1 in view of Wright (US 1,277,676), Borgstrom et al. (US 6,533, 713 B1), Downey (US 3,231,182), or Downey (US 3,232,174).

CONCLUSION

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 8, 17 and 18. In view of the arguments and amendments discussed herein, the applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 2-7 and 14-16, 19 and 20. All claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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